WIND BLOWS OVER TRACTOR-TRAILER, PG 3

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metro
TORONTO • MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2008

Celebrity pg 24

Tom Brady's dad denies NFLer engaged to model

Woman shot in east-end bar fight

SURGERY A 20-year-old Toronto woman needed surgery after being shot in the vicinity of an east-end bar disturbance yesterday.

Police responding to gunshot reports at Kingston Road at Victoria Park Avenue at 12:30 a.m. found the victim with a wound in her lower rib cage, said Staff Sgt. David Lowe.

Lowe said police were investigating a possible connection with a fight that began a half-hour earlier inside nearby Gabby's bar and spilled onto the street.

"We're still piecing together what her involvement was, if any," he said.

After police arrived, the woman took a cab to East General Hospital and was later transferred to Sunnybrook hospital in critical but stable condition.

Investigators do not know why she took a taxi instead of waiting for an ambulance, Lowe said.

Police are looking for at least two individuals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada pg 6

Families mourn slain soldiers

Workology pg 19

Make a career of shopping

DAN BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian protester runs with a green Islamic flag yesterday during clashes in the Shuafat refugee camp with Israeli troops, not seen, at a demonstration against Israel's military operation in Gaza.

Death toll climbs

Hundreds killed as Israel steps up attacks, mobilizes near Gaza

Israeli war planes continued to pound targets in the Gaza Strip yesterday, with the two-day death toll set to surpass 300.

While aircraft pounded at least 40 smuggling tunnels and a central prison, the Jewish state massed its armed forces near the Gaza border, raising the prospect of a ground invasion.

Israel launched its campaign, dubbed Operation Cast Lead, against Hamas-led Gaza on Saturday in retaliation for rocket attacks from the Palestinian territory. Yesterday, Israeli fighter jets, attack helicopters and other aircraft flew 30 sorties over Gaza, bringing the total number of air strikes in two days of fighting to 300.

"We are doing hunt-and-kill against whoever fires rockets, while also looking for hard targets to hit," a senior Israeli military officer said last night.

From Lebanon to Iran, Israel's adversaries used the assault to marshal crowds for noisy demonstrations.

The prime minister of Turkey, a regional ally, called the assault a "crime against humanity," while Syria said it was shutting down peace negotiations with Israel. Many of Israel's Western allies urged restraint on both sides, though the U.S. blamed Hamas.

Ever since the militant Islamist organization Hamas seized control of Gaza in June 2007, the Jewish state has imposed a partial economic blockade on the territory. In protest against those measures, Hamas 10 days ago suspended a fragile six-month-old ceasefire, and resumed firing rockets and mortar shells at southern Israel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PGS 3 & 12

Timeline of Israel-Gaza relationship

- **June 1967:** Israel captures the Egyptian-controlled Gaza Strip.
- **December 1987:** A Palestinian uprising leads to the formation of militant Islamic Hamas.
- **September 2005:** Israel withdraws troops and settlers. It keeps control of air space, coastal waters and border crossings.
- **June 2007:** Hamas violently seizes control of Gaza.
- **June 2008:** Hamas and Israel reach a ceasefire.
- **November 2008:** Palestinians resume rocket fire into Israel after Israeli incursion.
- **Dec. 19, 2008:** Hamas formally declares the truce over, rocket fire on Israel intensifies.
- **Dec. 27, 2008:** Israel launches a fierce air offensive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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World leaders react to crisis in Middle East

"Israel has a clear right to defend itself against the continued rocket attacks by Palestinian militant groups, which have deliberately targeted civilians."
— CANADA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAWRENCE CANNON

"The United States strongly condemns the repeated rocket and mortar attacks against Israel and holds Hamas responsible for breaking the ceasefire and for the renewal of violence in Gaza."
— U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE

"Israel needs to meet its humanitarian obligations, act in a way to further the long-term vision of a two-state solution, and do everything in its power to avoid civilian casualties."
— BRITISH PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN

"(The president condemns) the provocations that led to this situation as well as the disproportionate use of force."
— FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY

"Now more than at any other time, both Arab and Islamic nations are required to take a practical stance for the sake of stopping this repeated aggression and to break the unfair besieging of these brave people."
— IRAQ'S TOP SHIITE CLERIC GRAND AYATOLLAH ALI AL-SISTANI

"The homeland of Jesus cannot continue to be witness to so much bloodshed, which repeats itself endlessly."
— POPE BENEDICT XVI
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Firefighters battle blaze at Scarborough strip mall
Smoke from a three-alarm fire in a cabinet-making factory damaged a strip mall early yesterday. It took about two hours for fire crews to extinguish the blaze at Kennedy and Brigstock roads, just south of Ellesmere Road. Police say no one was injured in the blaze. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the fire. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Cops corral coke shipment

Another $14.5-million worth of cocaine has been seized in Saint John, N.B., from a second ship in an operation dubbed Project Falcon — a major drug investigation led by Durham Region police, Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP. The drugs were destined for Etobicoke-based Caribbean International Food Distributors, the same company police linked to another $40-million drug shipment last week. Along with the previous shipment, the amount of cocaine seized totals 376 kilograms, with an estimated street value of $54.5 million. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Music

Metro talks to Elliott Brood frontman Mark Sasso about the success of the band's latest album Mountain Meadows.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Comment Guidy Mamann writes about Canada following America's lead in extending professional work permits at **metronews.ca/live**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 26 — Lotto Super 7: 4, 25, 30, 31, 33, 34 & 37 Bonus 11. **Saturday, Dec. 27 — Lotto 6/49:** 6, 10, 20, 23, 45 & 47 Bonus 11. **Sunday, Dec. 28 — Ontario Pick 3:** 5 4 9; **Ontario Pick 4** : 5 5 2 3; **Encore:** 6040367; **Daily Keno:** 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 18, 23, 25, 26, 35, 40, 46, 47, 57, 58, 59, 62, 68, 69. These results are not official.

News in brief

CRASH A woman faces charges after she ran a red light and collided with a police cruiser Friday night, sending three people to hospital with minor injuries. At 11:30 p.m., officers were driving to a call in the Birchmount Road and McNicoll Avenue area. The cruiser struck the side of the woman's car, causing significant damage to the police vehicle.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blowin' in the wind

Powerful gusts wreak havoc

Winds powerful enough to flip a tractor-trailer ripped through the GTA yesterday, felling trees and hydro lines and causing power outages in almost 34,000 homes across southern Ontario.

Gusting at up to 100 km/h, winds were blamed for a tractor-trailer rollover on Highway 400 northbound at Canal Road at about 10:45 a.m. The trailer was empty and the driver escaped with minor injuries, said OPP Const. Dave Woodford.

Northbound lanes were closed for about three hours.

"It's a crazy day out here. I haven't seen winds like these for a long time," said Woodford from the site of the crash. "This (wind) can blow you away."

"It's a crazy day out here." OPP Const. Dave Woodford

By 3 p.m., OPP had already responded to dozens of calls relating to the blustery weather.

Across the GTA power outages were reported from several areas and wires were down in at least 15 locations.

Toronto Hydro Corp. spokesperson Dayana Bonifaz said about 10,000 homes lost power and at least 30 crews responded to different locations, including Etobicoke and Scarborough. Power was restored by the evening. The winds blew out windows throughout the city, including a large pane from the 20th floor of a building at 12 Yonge St.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE PG 6

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police close off King Street West between Spadina Avenue and Peter Street yesterday afternoon due to high winds, which created a sail-like effect with a tarp attached to scaffolding.

Tempers flare at anti-Israel protests

The raw realities of Middle East politics spilled onto the streets in several Canadian cities yesterday as pro-Palestinian protesters denounced the bloody Israeli attacks on Gaza and blasted Israel as a terrorist state.

The largest demonstration was in Toronto, where tempers flared and as about 800 protesters outside the Israeli consulate screamed at a few dozen pro-Israel supporters across busy Bloor Street.

"I am here to stand up for the victims of Palestine who are being brutally slaughtered by the Israeli terrorist state," said protester Ali Mallah as he waved a Palestinian flag.

Police had their hands full keeping the two groups apart as the pro-Palestinian group surged across the road, but, apart from some minor scuffles, there was no violence.

Harold Medjuck, who stood holding a pro-Israel banner across the road from the larger protest, said the Israeli air strikes were defensive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tolls, taxes needed to fund transit: Planner

Show us the money. For months, that's been the mantra of the municipal politicians on the Metrolinx board.

They spent the year assembling Toronto-area transit projects totalling billions of dollars into the Regional Transportation Plan.

But the board's sole citizen appointee, Paul Bedford, has adopted a different slogan. He's taking his cue from U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's "Yes we can" motto.

Toronto's retired chief planner and self-styled urban mentor doesn't believe the region can afford to wait for government money to build transit.

2009 planned TTC projects

- Shovels in the ground on the Sheppard East light-rail line
- Tunnelling could begin on the Spadina subway extension to York University
- St. Clair streetcar right-of-way expected to be complete to Gunns Road, west of Keele Street, about five years after it was started
- Work on waterfront east light-rail line could also begin

That's why he refuses to drop one of 2008's hottest political potatoes: Road tolls.

Bedford says he will continue to speak out in 2009 about the need to raise money for transit, whether by road tolls, a regional sales tax or another gasoline tax. Those and other funding ideas need to be aired publicly, he says, rather than waiting until 2013, the timeline prescribed by the Metrolinx report.

"My take on this is we've got to find the money sooner rather than later. We have to be serious about understanding the price if we don't invest," he warned the Canadian Urban Institute recently.

The 25-year Metrolinx plan includes more frequent GO service in the entire region, light-rail running to Toronto's boundaries, and more buses, many operating in dedicated lanes in York, Peel and Halton.

What the plan doesn't have are ideas on how to fill in the $38.5-billion funding gap between its $50-billion price tag and the $11.5 billion pledged by the province so far.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shootings under investigation

ETOBICOKE Police are investigating two early morning shootings that left bullet holes in the walls of Etobicoke homes.

Just after midnight yesterday on Shockley Drive, near Martin Grove Road and Steeles Avenue West, a bullet went through a house wall. Three casings were found outside, said Toronto Staff Sgt. Jack Kelly. Three hours later, more shots were reported, this time on Duncanwoods Drive, near Islington and Steeles avenues.

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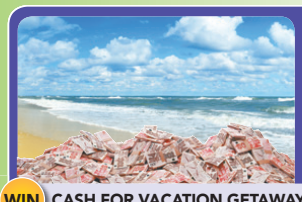
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Collision sends teen to hospital
A 17-year-old boy is in hospital after his Volkswagen collided with a truck. OPP say the collision happened just before 9 a.m. yesterday near Caledon. TORSTAR

Slain man mystery to tenants

The 11-storey block of community housing units at 1021 Birchmount Rd., shrouded in mist Saturday just north of Eglinton Ave. E., is not a place where tenants know their neighbours.

No one on the top floor around Kurt Gonsalves' apartment could say they knew him.

But a few seemed to know at least two things.

First, he had not been in the building long — perhaps three months, maybe a little more.

Second, he was found dead on Christmas morning — killed by whatever brutal tactic is euphemized by police as "trauma to the face."

Only one apartment door on the 11th floor had Christmas decorations.

This is a place, according to Shontal Francis, 28, who lives down the hall, where "people come and they go."

She's been here, walking these pale green, halogen-lit hallways, for about a year.

She didn't know Gonsalves, 49, personally. It seems no one did.

"I didn't even know he had a roommate," Francis said, peeking around her door.

Apparently, he had two.

One, whom police won't identify, was found badly beaten at the scene of the crime.

Another, Ryan Walters, 27, later turned himself into police.

Walters appeared in court yesterday, charged with second-degree murder in connection with Gonsalves' death, Toronto's 70th homicide of 2008, and with aggravated assault in connection with the beating of the roommate.

He remains in custody, said Toronto police homicide Det. Sgt. Steve Ryan.

> **"(They seemed) a bunch of happy fellas. Always drinking, always drunk."**
> Vincent Williams

Although no one knew Gonsalves, a couple of people knew of him.

Francis said she knew Gonsalves and his friends were often rowdy.

One neighbour, who lives next door to Gonsalves' apartment, said they often heard arguments.

Vincent Williams, 51, speaking from his doorway, said that for the most part the trio seemed "a bunch of happy fellas.

"Always drinking, always drunk."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A rescue operation of mucky proportions raises digger

A massive tunnelling machine trapped 22 metres below Langstaff Rd. in Vaughan for seven months — now the subject of a massive excavation — should be out of the ground in early 2009, according to project manager Tomislav Hrkac.

Efforts to reach the 10-metre-long machine, which got stuck in the muck in early May while tunnelling a portion of York Region's Big Pipe sewer line, began earlier this month with the digging of a vertical shaft near Langstaff Rd. and Pleasant Ridge Ave.

> **"The whole area where the machine sits is a pressurized environment."**
> Tomislav Hrkac

Wet soil conditions — the machine is trapped below the local aquifer — mean workers starting at street level must install interlocking concrete sections and steel supports as they dig the 5-by-30-metre rescue shaft.

"The whole area where the machine sits is a pressurized environment," Hrkac said. "There's a head of water above the machine. That means everything is saturated with water around you."

Once the shaft hits the 100-tonne waterlogged machine, McNally Construction and Aecon Group, working as a joint venture, will use cranes to haul it to the surface, along with other tunnelling equipment sitting in the sand and silt that now plugs 300 metres of completed pipeline beneath Langstaff Rd., north of Highway 407 and east of Dufferin St.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

3 sent to hospital after inhaling CO2

FUMES Three people are in hospital after inhaling potentially deadly carbon monoxide fumes, which filled their home near Davenport Rd. and Bathurst St.

Police received the call Saturday at 9 a.m. and say that the family of 11 was awakened in the morning with headaches.

The homeowner suspected the harmful gas had infiltrated the house, and opened all the windows while everyone safely exited, by which point the fire department had arrived on scene.

He acknowledged that though he has a carbon monoxide detector, it wasn't plugged in.

The three victims were sent to the hospital as a precautionary measure, and are in stable condition.

Toronto Fire is still investigating the source of the carbon monoxide leak.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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- 307 Toronto St S

VAUGHAN
- Vaughan Mills

WHITBY
- Whitby Mall
- Whitby SmartCentres

WILLOWDALE
- Fairview Mall

WOODBRIDGE
- 4080 Highway 7

Avalanche deaths still stir emotions

A decade later, memories of the 1999 New Year's Day avalanche that smashed through the gym of a northern Quebec school are still fresh. One of Canada's worst avalanches claimed the lives of nine people — four adults and five children, one of whom was only 18 months old — in the remote town of Kangiqsualujjuaq. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

New regulations for seal hunters

The federal government has quietly posted new seal-hunt regulations that will slow down the controversial harvest by forcing sealers to take more time ensuring the mammals are dead before skinning. The rule changes, which include beefed up federal enforcement, come barely a month after federal Fisheries Minister Gail Shea said Canada was "proceeding as usual" with the 2009 hunt in the face of a proposed European Union ban on seal products. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cirque du Soleil: Kooza
cbc.ca/holiday
Tonight at 8 CBC

Pro-life caucus aims to rekindle debate

ABORTION The new chairman of a secretive pro-life parliamentary caucus is pledging to rekindle the abortion debate in Canada and bring "more value" to the lives of unborn children.

Although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said he's not interested in reopening the divisive issue, Winnipeg MP Rod Bruinooge told The Canadian Press people need to be better educated about Canada's abortion stance, which he says puts the country in a "class of its own."

"Very few Canadians appreciate the fact that essentially until a child takes its first breath, it has less value than a kidney," says Bruinooge.

"In Canada you can't remove your kidney and put it on EBay and auction it off. That is illegal. Whereas you actually can end a beating heart of an unborn child the second before it's delivered. Most Canadians would agree that is truly a poor bioethical position for our country to be in."

"Very few Canadians appreciate the fact that essentially until a child takes its first breath, it has less value than a kidney."
MP Rod Bruinooge

Pro-choice advocates say Canadian doctors only perform such later-term procedures if there's a serious threat to the health of the mother or if it's virtually certain the baby wouldn't survive past birth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FIRE Funeral services will take place next week for three young children killed in a tragic house fire on Bell Island, N.L. The fire on Dec. 20 claimed the lives of a seven-year-old girl, her five-year-old brother and another five-year-old boy who was their cousin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadians optimistic

Poll says majority upbeat about the economy for 2009

A new poll suggests a significant majority of Canadians remain optimistic as they look ahead to 2009 — notwithstanding all the gloomy talk about a looming recession.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found that 58 per cent of respondents were upbeat about the coming year, and only 21 per cent were pessimistic. Another 20 per cent said their outlook was neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

Ironically, the poll found less cheer among the wealthiest respondents — those earning a family income of more than $100,000 a year — than among those earning less than $60,000.

In the lower income bracket, 61 per cent said they're looking forward to 2009. That compares to 54 per cent among high-end earners. Losses on the stock market, or from retirement savings, may have impacted higher-income earners more.

Despite the losses, and predictions of rising unemployment in 2009, most poll respondents were upbeat about their work, with more than two thirds expressing little or no concern about their job prospects over the next six months.

"We see mixed signals in the economic mood right now," said Harris Decima senior vice-president Jeff Walker. "Yet on the whole, the deepening pessimism expressed by some financial analysts and media observers does not appear to be shared by the majority of Canadians."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Declining net worth?

• Fewer than one third of overall respondents said their net worth had declined in 2008, while 42 per cent with household incomes above $100,000 said their investments had dropped in value.

Families mourn fallen soldiers

AFGHANISTAN The last time Jill Kruse spoke to her husband was on Christmas Day.

He was calling from Afghanistan with good news.

"He had just found out that we were being transferred back to CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, where we still have our home," Kruse said in an interview with Torstar News Service from Pembroke, Ont., where the family has lived for a year-and-a-half. "It was the happiest moment."

Two days later, Sgt. Gregory John Kruse was dead, killed with Warrant Officer Gaétan Joseph Maxine Francis Roberge, an Afghan police officer and a local interpreter when a roadside bomb exploded in the Panjwaii district in the western part of Kandahar province.

The explosion happened just hours before Pte. Michael Freeman's flag-covered casket was loaded onto a military aircraft at Kandahar airfield. Freeman, 28, of Peterborough, was killed Friday when his armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb during a security patrol in Zhari district.

Saturday's deaths bring the number of soldiers killed this month to nine, making December the bloodiest month since April 2007, when nine soldiers were also killed. To date, 106 Canadian soldiers have been killed during the Afghan mission.

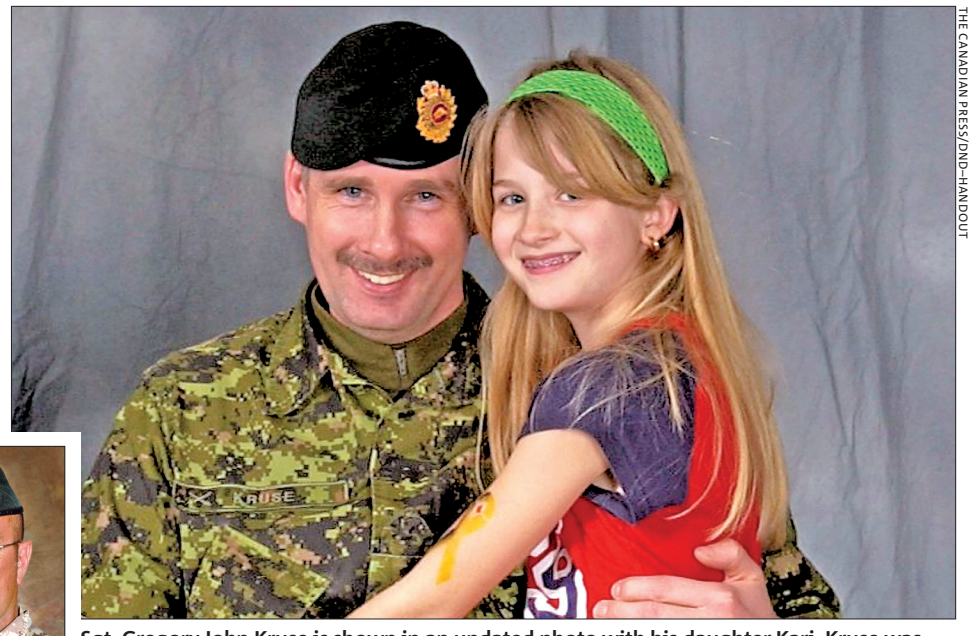
Jill Kruse called her husband a "devoted father who loved his girls more than anything in the world."

"We're devastated," she said. "We loved him so much."

Jill and Gregory Kruse, with their three children, Kari, 11, and six-year-old twins, Megan and Victoria, moved to Pembroke when Kruse was posted to CFB Petawawa in July 2007.

Roberge, a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment who was serving with the Irish Regiment of Canada in Sudbury, leaves behind his wife and two teenage children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



THE CANADIAN PRESS/DND–HANDOUT

Sgt. Gregory John Kruse is shown in an undated photo with his daughter Kari. Kruse was killed on Saturday during a security patrol in the western part of Kandahar province in Afghanistan. Inset: Warrant Officer Gaétan Roberge also died in the same incident.

High winds leave hundreds without power in Windsor

WEATHER Hundreds of people are without power because of severe wind in the Windsor area.

Power lines and trees were knocked over yesterday morning as winds topped 100 kilometres an hour. More than 1,000 Hydro One customers in Essex County had no lights, but the company says 34,000 homes were initially powerless across southwestern Ontario. Provincial police say they received more than 400 calls from concerned residents.

Environment Canada has called off a wind warning, but gusts of 70 kilometres an hour were expected through the afternoon.

Around Harriston, heavy rain and high winds overnight left streets flooded and hydro lines down.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cops investigating after blast sent seven to hospital in Summerside, P.E.I.

Firefighters and police in P.E.I. were called to a building after an explosion occurred inside on Saturday. Police say the injured were taken to hospital to be treated for burns. Summerside police, Prince District drug unit and the fire marshal's office were investigating. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec will be key for Iggy

Wearing a long, heavy black coat and his black fedora, sprinkled with puffy snowflakes, Michael Ignatieff set foot in Quebec City on Dec. 17 for the first time officially as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. He was greeted by a lone TV crew curious to know his intentions and his agenda for his breakfast that morning with Premier Jean Charest.

"I am going to visit other premiers, but I am starting in Quebec," he said politely, "and that is a sign of the importance I attach to Quebec."

There's nothing new in a politician trying to woo Quebec, or helpful strategists imploring them to back that up with symbolic heft. Prime Minister Stephen Harper began his last election campaign in Quebec, at a time when it was thought he had the province in his back pocket as he walked toward a majority.

But Harper's Quebec support, like an Alberta wild rose in a drought, simply dried up. And in the vacuum, the question has become, is Ignatieff the man who will reawaken Quebecers' moribund interest in his party?

Michal Ignatieff

Close associates, analysts and those on the ground say Ignatieff is well-positioned to take advantage of Tory problems in Quebec to reinvigorate the Liberal brand here, not only by virtue of his political calculations, but also good timing.

Since the chances of winning over the more-conservative west are fewer, Quebec becomes vital to the Liberal's faintest hopes of regaining government.

Hence, Ignatieff's Quebec assault will begin as early as next month as he starts to visit communities around the province

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Gang violence escalates in B.C. forestry town

CRIME Gang violence appears to be on the rise in B.C. as gangs fight over control of the lucrative drug trade, but there are few places where the increase has been more severe than in Prince George.

The northern forestry community has been plagued by a year of brawls, shootings, reports of torture and several murders as rival groups brazenly fight among themselves.

"There are innocent victims all the time. There are parents ... It's just tragic."
Mayor Dan Rogers

In late summer, a 19-year-old man was seriously injured in a drive-by shooting in Prince George, 500 kilometres northeast of Vancouver.

A few weeks later, a young couple believed to be connected to the drug trade — including a 19-year-old woman — were found shot to death.

Although the victims were gang members, Mayor Dan Rogers says every violent act ripples into the wider community.

"There are innocent victims all the time," says Rogers, recently elected as mayor after 12 years on city council.

"There are parents, there are relatives. It's just tragic."

While things have quieted since the grisly October slayings, the head of the RCMP's local gang unit says 2008 was the worst year he has ever seen.

"We never used to have this kind of violence in Prince George," says Sgt. Raj Sidhu, who's been with the Mounties there for 13 years.

"It's pretty brutal what's happening."

The violence in the city follows a pattern established elsewhere in B.C.

A new gang crops up, a turf war breaks out, and eventually the violence ends when one group is either beaten down by rivals or rounded up by police.

The cycle has been a source of constant frustration for police forces combating violence among B.C.'s 129 identified gangs.

"There's always peaks and valleys, and that seems to just repeat itself," says Supt. Dan Malo, head of the B.C. integrated gang task force.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

RCMP A global economic crisis has thrown government finances into disarray, scaling back planned pay hikes for rank-and-file Mounties due to a 1.5 per cent cap on increases across the federal public service. The Conservative government's freeze kicks in as the force struggles to retain experienced members and attract enough new recruits to fill hundreds of vacancies and replace waves of imminent retirees. Mounties fear they will be caught short trying to police the Winter Olympics in B.C. and a gathering of G8 leaders in Ontario, both in 2010.

VANCOUVER Two deaths, one at the beginning of 2008 and one at the end of the year, did more to highlight the issue of homelessness in this city than any other. Vancouver's new mayor, Gregor Robertson said it's painfully clear the status quo is unacceptable. Robertson, who ran on a platform to end street homelessness by 2015, said immediate action must be taken to provide shelter beds for those currently on the streets. He then plans to use city bylaws to protect affordable housing as a medium-term solution.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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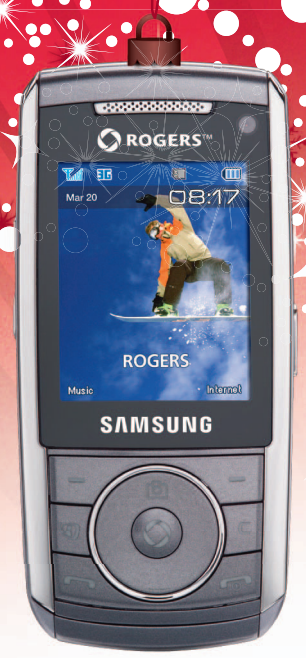

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Colorado Army National Guard may join search for Albertans' downed plane

A search and rescue group is hoping to enlist the help of the Colorado Army National Guard to look for the wreckage of a plane carrying a prominent Alberta oil engineer and his wife. The aircraft, piloted by Gerrit Maureau, 67, of Calgary and carrying his wife, Dr. Sheila Malm, 65, crashed last Saturday near Trinidad, Colo., about 320 kilometres south of Denver. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

First lady, Rice defend Bush

Laura Bush disagrees with critics who call the U.S. presidency of George W. Bush a failure. "I know it's not, and so I don't really feel like I need to respond to people that view it that way," she said in an interview that aired yesterday. "I think history will judge and we'll see later." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice took a similar view in a separate interview. "I think generations pretty soon are going to start to thank this president for what he's done. This generation will," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan warned not to ignore terror front

Pakistan risks a rise in terrorist activity if it lets tensions with India divert its attention and troops away from battling Taliban and al-Qaida militants along the Afghan border, leading Pakistani newspapers warned yesterday.

Hours after the editorials were published, a suicide car bomb targeting voters killed 26 people in that troubled northwest region.

The commentary in some of the Muslim nation's biggest dailies came after reports that the army was redeploying thousands of troops from the northwest toward the eastern border with India after last month's attacks in Mumbai, which India blames on Pakistani militants.

Pakistan "just cannot afford to redeploy any large number of its troops on the eastern border, leaving the 'wild' west in a free fall," Dawn newspaper wrote in an editorial.

"Isn't that the area where the world's best intelligence says the extremist militants are holed up in significant numbers and planning to strike targets everywhere?"

India and Pakistan insist they do not want to fight, but tensions have repeatedly spiked since the November siege of Mumbai that killed 164 people.

India blames the attack on banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Pakistan has detained some alleged masterminds and clamped down on a charity allegedly linked to the militants, but has demanded that India back up its claim with evidence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bombing at polls

- A suicide bomber pretending to need help with his car killed 26 people and injured 15 in Pakistan yesterday.
- The building targeted was a school, where voters were casting ballots in a byelection for a National Assembly seat.

India **Election victory**

/MUKHTAR KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National Conference (NC) party supporters at a victory celebration yesterday in Ganderbal, India. Leaders of the pro-India NC party, which emerged as the largest party in Kashmir's first election since a wave of deadly protests swept through the region, said they planned to approach the Congress party to discuss forming a new coalition government.

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Police prepare for protests by ex-Thai PM's supporters

THAILAND More than 3,000 Thai police moved into position yesterday to prevent a replay of demonstrations that paralyzed the government for months and climaxed with the eight-day seizure of the capital's airports.

This time, it was supporters of exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, instead of his opponents, who planned to take to the streets.

Thaksin's followers were planning to marshal enough protesters to block the new government from delivering its policy statement at parliament early next week. The protest was set to begin yesterday.

Police units were being dispatched to cordon off the parliament building and a nearby field where the pro-Thaksin Democratic Alliance against Dictatorship was to gather, the website of The Nation newspaper said.

On Saturday, the alliance vowed to stage protests nationwide unless the new prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, dissolves parliament and holds new elections. The group says his Democrat Party came to power this month through a virtual coup d'etat.

Abhisit, the nation's third prime minister in four months, vowed to reunite the deeply divided nation and to restore Thailand's tourist-friendly image. The eight-day airport shutdown battered the country's essential tourism industry and stranded more than 300,000 travelers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adherents

- Thaksin and his supporters retain strong support in rural areas where they built up a political base, but are disliked by many of the educated elite who viewed his six years in power as deeply corrupt.

Blagojevich will be out in two months: Lt.-Gov.

ILLINOIS The lieutenant governor of Illinois says he is certain scandal-plagued Gov. Rod Blagojevich will be out of office in less than two months.

Lt.-Gov. Pat Quinn said on CBS's Face the Nation he believes Blagojevich will be impeached and convicted by Abraham Lincoln's birthday Feb. 12.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 on charges alleging he schemed to swap U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's vacant senate seat for profit, shaking down a hospital executive for campaign donations and other wrongdoing. The governor says he will fight the charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tamil fighters say 50 troops killed

SRI LANKA A pro-rebel website says Tamil fighters have killed at least 50 government troops in Sri Lanka.

The TamilNet website reported the soldiers were killed in the rebel stronghold of Mullaitivu on Saturday. The rebels also found 16 bodies of soldiers, said the website. Both sides routinely exaggerate enemy casualties while underreporting their own.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SPAIN Tens of thousands of people gathered yesterday in Madrid for a Roman Catholic mass designed to promote traditional family values. The country's socialist government has angered the church by legalizing gay marriage.

BRITAIN An age-rating system for websites may be needed to protect children, said culture, media and sports secretary Andy Burnham yesterday. He said, for example, that it is easy to "view a beheading" on the Internet. THE ASSOCIATED

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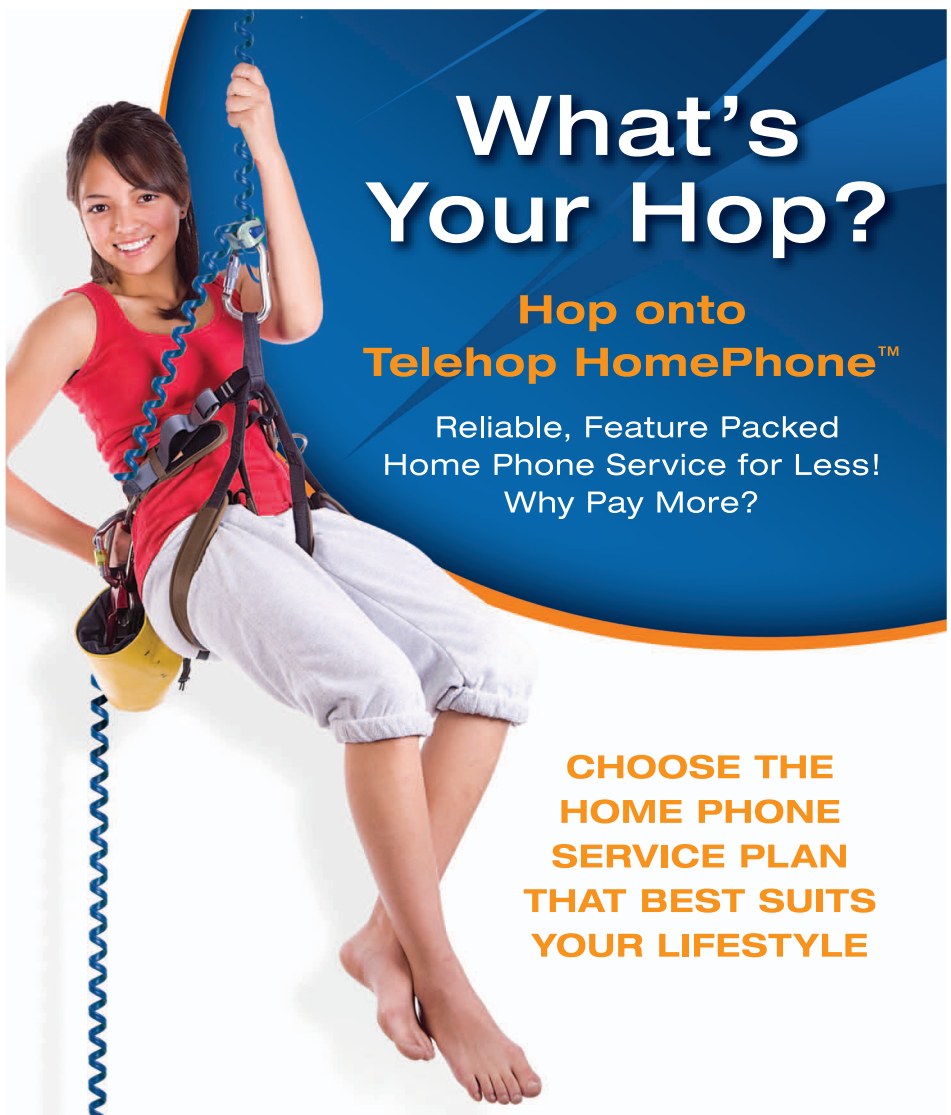

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12 world

B.C. man dies in California after motorcycle accident
Palm Springs police say a B.C. man died Saturday in California after being thrown from his motorcycle and then hit by a passing car. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hezbollah on edge

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said yesterday he had asked his fighters to be on alert for any possible Israeli attack on Lebanon following raids on Gaza that killed nearly 300 Palestinians.

Nasrallah told a religious gathering in Beirut's southern suburbs that the Israeli assault on Gaza was a carbon copy of its attacks on Lebanon during a 34-day war with Hezbollah in 2006. Some 1,200 people died in Lebanon and 158 in Israel in that conflict.

"I have asked the brothers in the resistance in the south specifically to be present, on alert and cautious because we are facing a criminal enemy and we don't know the magnitude of the conspiracies," Nasrallah said.

> **"I have asked the brothers in the resistance in the south specifically to be present, on alert and cautious."**
> Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

They were his first comments on the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip that killed at least 296 Palestinians.

The black-turbaned cleric, speaking via a video link because of security fears, said the Israeli forces had gone on alert along the border with Lebanon since Saturday when the attack on Gaza began.

Nasrallah said the Israelis were either taking precautionary measures or preparing for an attack in an attempt to avenge its failure to destroy Hezbollah in 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico **Abortion law sparks protest**

CLAUDIO RUIZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers stand next to candles and signs with pictures of fetuses, placed there by anti-abortion activists, during a protest against the legalization of abortion in front of the Supreme Court in Mexico City yesterday. The law allows any woman who can prove to be a resident of Mexico City to have an abortion at any public hospital within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

24 killed in Bangladesh road accident: Police

FATALITIES Police in Bangladesh say a truck loaded with iron rods veered off the road, killing 24 hitchhikers riding in the back and injuring 13 others.

Traffic police official A.K.M. Mujibul Haque says yesterday's accident in northern Tangail district happened when the driver apparently lost control and the truck fell into a roadside ditch.

He said at least 23 people died at the scene while another man died on the way to a local hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Children killed in suicide bombing

ATTACK A suicide bomber in Afghanistan tried to attack a meeting of tribal elders and blew himself up near a primary school yesterday, killing 16 and wounding 58, officials said. At least 14 schoolchildren were killed. The blast went off near the entrance to an army post.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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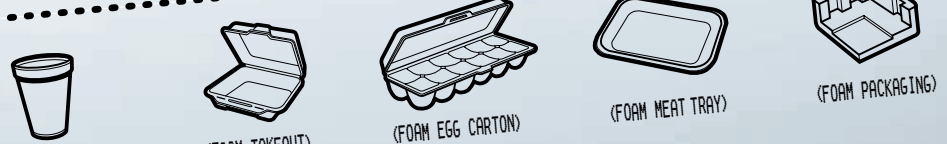
And remember, recycling is good, but reducing is better. toronto.ca/recycle



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Comment & Views

Comment

How to deal with work this week

HineSight

Anne Hines

It's Monday morning. December twenty-nine. You're on the subway or bus or waiting for the subway or bus. Possibly it's raining, which is bad. Or snowing, which is worse.

As you walked to the subway/bus you passed houses and apartments full of people still snoozing all comfy and cozy or just beginning to open their eyes and muse, "Perhaps I will sit on the couch all day. I pity those poor sods who have to work."

And, you realize, the poor sod is you. Yes, fellow workers, it's STBW, that period stretching from Christmas Day to New Year's Eve traditionally known as Sucks To Be Working Week.

Let's ask ourselves, is the fact that we have to work while others spend the week relaxing, shopping and partying, really any reason to be bitter? The answer? Yes, of course it is. But then ask, surely there are ways to avoid this bitterness and make STBW Week fun and enjoyable?

No, there really aren't.

There are, however, strategies for getting through STBW Week without increasing your medication dosage. At least not by much. First, know that you have a choice about how you view your situation. You can say, "If I have to work this week, I'll do the best darn job I can."

This is mature and responsible.

Or, you may decide that just because you're at your place of employment doesn't mean you actually have to work. This is way more fun.

Spend the day walking quickly around the office carrying a file.

Not only is this fabulous aerobic activity, it will convince everyone you are very, very busy when really you're just trolling to see who has leftover Christmas cookies on their desk.

Retail workers may adapt this method by rushing about with a deeply concerned expression, gazing just over the heads of any pesky customers who think just because the store is open they can come in and expect be served. Or, dedicate the week to doing valuable catchup. Not real work.

If you left it this long, how important can it be?

Instead, update your Facebook profile or take time to send those vital time-sensitive e-mails with attachments of your dog wearing a Santa hat. Finally, remember this: While all around you people are out spending money, you're actually making money. And if this doesn't make you feel better, go book off the week after Labour Day.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Views

GO increase a decrease for some?

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

As of Jan. 5, GO train riders should see some benefits after the occasional hassle of track construction along the 116-kilometre Lakeshore corridor.

The gradual addition of a third set of tracks means two new express-train runs will head east and west from Union Station in the afternoon.

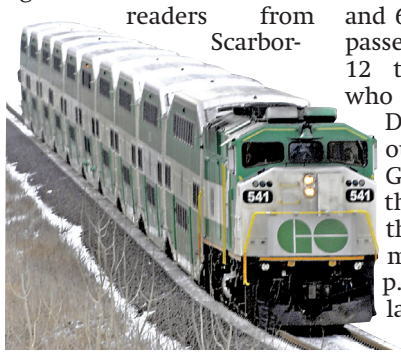
We shall see how the already-tight afternoon train schedule fares this winter.

Work should begin this spring to build the remaining third track section between Oakville and Mississauga. Other construction, such as lengthening platforms throughout Scarborough, will permit more 12-car trains. There is no confirmation yet on a proposed new morning train from the Oakville area.

Quick tip

• There's been a lot of effort to make sure New Year's revellers have a genuine option to driving. Transit agencies have extended service, which is in many cases free during certain hours. The Toronto Entertainment Alliance is to be applauded for sponsoring early morning service on the TTC (look them up on the web). Why not take some time to get travel details now, so you're not tempted to hop in the car on Dec. 31? Holiday details for all GTA agencies can be found at www.transit.toronto.on.ca.

It's clear GO has to add capacity along Lakeshore and these afternoon additions are welcome — but people who ride from eastern Toronto may actually get worse service. Two readers from Scarborough tell me the new schedule means longer waits and no reduction in crowding — unless you live outside 416.



One rider writes, "A passenger going to Scarborough station has a choice of six trains between 3:13 and 6:13 p.m.; a Pickering passenger has a choice of 12 trains. A commuter who wants to get off at Danforth, Scarborough, Eglinton or Guildwood stations has the option of catching the 3:13 p.m., then 32 minutes later the 3:45 p.m., then 45 minutes later the 4:30 and currently, 43 minutes later comes the 5:13.

"Now, in GO Transit's infinite wisdom and preferential treatment to commuters going further east, we now will have to wait until 5:20 to depart from downtown — making it a 50-minute wait between trains. A Pickering passenger never has more than a 32 minute (scheduled) wait between trains."

GO's Jessica Kosmack replies, "When we do have the opportunity to add new service, we have to look at the few windows in our schedule to fit those in. Sometimes it means adjusting a train by a few minutes, such as the 5:13 p.m. train. If we don't make these adjustments, we can't add new service — and we know that more service is something our customers want."

Are Toronto riders being overlooked? Tell me what you think.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

Letters

Why is MADD not angry at cinemas serving booze?

The people who are in charge of MADD should be ashamed of themselves for giving the green light to serve beer in cinemas. Their motto is zero tolerance when driving a motor vehicle, so it is OK to drink while watching a movie and drive drunk after the show?

It is also a bad example for all the kids and I think the first thing that they will want to do is to turn 19 so that they can join the exclusive club.

Maybe I am wrong, but when there is money to be made, it doesn't matter at all. Wake up MADD and smell the beer before more drunk drivers are on the road after a movie.

WAI SUN HONG
SCARBOROUGH

We can't allow Ontario to invest in nuclear power

The Ontario government is committed to signing contracts for two new nuclear reactors this spring. We can't let this happen.

Nuclear energy is too costly, too risky and too polluting.

Clean, green renewable energy and efficiency can meet all our electricity needs.

ANGELA BISCHOFF
ONTARIO CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE

Pardo murders call out for action by employers

I believe the murderous rampage of Bruce Pardo speaks to a bigger issue of the 21st century, whereby these seemly random acts of violence may now be in some ways charted and predicted in hopes of staving off tragedies such as that which Pardo inflicted.

What was once an unforeseen act of violence has now become regular blip on the media news channel. No longer can we expect those who lose their jobs or go though a bitter divorce at this time of year to sit idly by and do what was once the rational thing. It seems simple enough to place a moratorium on firing or allowing divorces to be finalized in the month of December based on the violence that this month produces.

DANIEL KOWBELL, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
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Venezuela to seize gold concessions, Chavez says
Venezuela will seize several gold-mining concessions that previous governments granted private operators, in a bid to supplement falling oil prices with proceeds from state-controlled gold, President Hugo Chavez said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Saving beer from going bad

Monique Haakensen isn't just another university student who claims to have spent her academic years preoccupied with beer. The 26-year-old is completing her PhD in pathology and laboratory medicine by researching the sudsy beverage at the University of Saskatchewan. She has helped discover three new methods of detecting beer-spoiling bacteria, including a DNA-based technique that has big breweries hoisting pints in celebration. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

PETER MCCABE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boxing Day shoppers waited in line for as long as eight hours Friday for a Future Shop in downtown Montreal to open.

Shoppers flock to sales

RETAIL If consumer confidence is plummeting to an all-time low as the economy goes from bad to worse, the sights and sounds of Boxing Day in many Canadian malls certainly didn't show it.

From sales staff on ladders hawking deals to the hordes of customers, it was 360 degrees of retail fever.

But while the spectacle of post-Christmas consumption remained, there also appeared a number of small but subtle differences: While big-ticket items still dotted the crowds, shoppers opted to purchase more modest goods — a growing trend, analysts said.

Another factor in the all's-well-illusion: A jump in window shoppers who weren't buying at all.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan boom to continue into 2009

People from every part of the country are flocking to Saskatchewan.

Strong employment and a booming economy have made Saskatchewan a rags-to-riches story. While financial storm clouds are raining bad news down on the rest of Canada, experts say that Saskatchewan will be a bright spot in 2009.

There are a lot of reasons for optimism.

Statistics Canada figures show that Saskatchewan's population growth in 2007-08 was the strongest since the 1970s. For the first time, the province led the pack when it came to interprovincial migration.

It also had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada in November, with 14,800 more people working.

Sales of Crown petroleum and natural-gas rights helped swell provincial coffers by a record $1.12 billion this year.

> **"Saskatchewan is in a league of its own."**
> Conference Board of Canada

Both the National Energy Board and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources say the province has more than enough conventional gas to keep that industry active for many years.

The Conference Board of Canada forecasts that Saskatchewan will lead the country in economic growth in 2009, saying: "Saskatchewan is in a league of its own; booming conditions are anticipated to persist well into 2009."

THE CANADIAN

Business in brief

OIL Kuwait scrapped a $17.4-billion US joint venture with the U.S. petrochemical giant Dow Chemical Co. yesterday after criticism from legislators that the project, known as K-Dow Petrochemicals, was risky in light of the global financial crisis and low oil prices. The venture, in which Kuwait was to hold a $7.5-billion stake, had been criticized as a waste of public funds, and legislators threatened to question the prime minister if it was launched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian moon rover in the works

SPACE An all-Canadian moon rover is just one project being considered as the head of the Canadian Space Agency puts the final touches on a long-term plan to chart its future course.

Steve MacLean, who took over the agency last September, has spent the past few months consulting with industry, academics and government departments.

Two Canadian astronauts, Julie Payette and Bob Thirsk, have also been busy preparing for visits to the International Space Station in 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GMAC quiet on bailout hurdle

AUTOS The financing arm of General Motors Corp. wasn't immediately saying whether it had met a midnight deadline to clear a final hurdle in its quest to become a bank holding company, which would allow it to access billions in federal bank-bailout money.

GMAC Financial Services LLC needed to complete a complicated debt-for-equity exchange by Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Melo back, leads Nuggets to win

Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points after missing three games with a bruised right elbow, and the Denver Nuggets sent the New York Knicks to their sixth straight loss with a 117-110 victory yesterday. It was only the third 30-point game this season for Anthony, who has been bothered by the elbow since injuring it in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Manning extends record

Peyton Manning extended his own NFL record for 4,000-yard seasons to nine during yesterday's 23-0 win over Tennessee. Manning needed 93 yards to achieve the mark again, and he wasted little time in hooking up with Joseph Addai on a 55-yard catch-and-run in the first quarter. Indianapolis closed the regular season with nine straight wins. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Juniors hammer Kazakhstan

WJC RESULT

Canada 15 Kazakhstan 0

CANADA VS КАЗАҚСТАН

MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Toronto

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADRIAN WYLD

Team Canada celebrates Jordan Eberle's opening goal against Kazakhstan yesterday in Ottawa. Canada added 14 more as it cruised to a 15-0 victory.

THE SKINNY: The Canadian squad scored 15 goals yesterday in a world junior championship game for the second time in tournament history as they demolished Kazakhstan 15-0.

THE QUOTE: "Obviously, we did a lot of positive things at both ends of the ice in Sunday's game," said Team Canada defenceman, PK Subban. "It was a nice win, but we won't have any time to dwell on the victory because we play again on Monday versus Germany."

THE LAST TIME: Canada trounced France 15-0 at the 2002 world junior hockey championships.

THE DOUGHNUT: Canadian goaltender Chet Pickard made 11 saves for the shutout in his first world junior championship game. Pickard registers the first WJC shutout since Canada's Steve Mason blanked Sweden 2-0 at last year's tournament.

THE HALF DOZEN: Cody Hodgson had a great offensive game, picking up six points on two goals and four assists. Subban and John Tavares collected four points apiece.

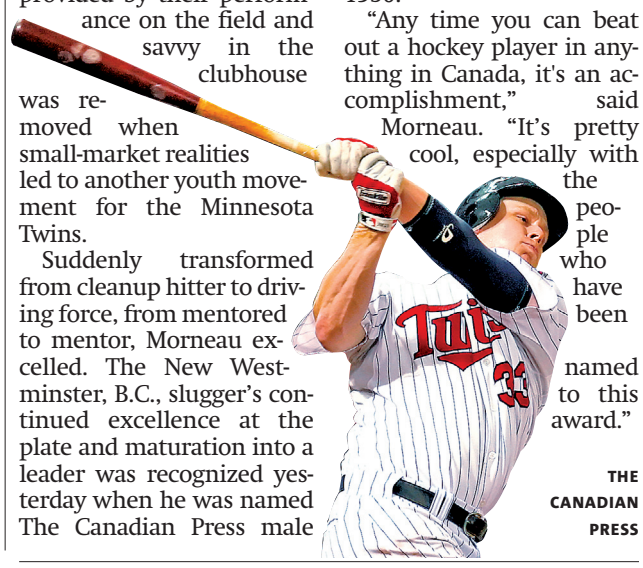
THE HAT TRICK: Jamie Benn scored his first three goals of the tournament along with a pair of assists against Kazakhstan.

THE NEXT GAME: Germany is up next for Team Canada tonight at Scotiabank Place. Germany is coming off another big shutout over Kazakhstan, winning 9-0 Saturday.

Morneau takes home Lionel Conacher award

Through the ups and downs of a trying first few years in the major leagues, Justin Morneau was always able to count on the steady guidance of veterans like Torii Hunter and Johan Santana.

This year, the safety net provided by their performance on the field and savvy in the clubhouse was removed when small-market realities led to another youth movement for the Minnesota Twins.



Suddenly transformed from cleanup hitter to driving force, from mentored to mentor, Morneau excelled. The New Westminster, B.C., slugger's continued excellence at the plate and maturation into a leader was recognized yesterday when he was named The Canadian Press male athlete of the year.

The 27-year-old first baseman topped a survey of the country's sports editors and broadcasters with 99 points to win the Lionel Conacher Award, named for the all-rounder voted Canada's athlete of the half-century in 1950.

"Any time you can beat out a hockey player in anything in Canada, it's an accomplishment," said Morneau. "It's pretty cool, especially with the people who have been named to this award."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Evans claims title at UFC 92

UFC There was revenge, drama and more than a bit of spite at UFC 92. The big winners Saturday night were Rashad Evans, Frank Mir and Quinton (Rampage) Jackson.

Evans stopped Forrest Griffin to win the light-heavyweight title, Mir upset Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira to claim the interim heavyweight crown and Jackson brutally knocked out light-heavyweight rival Wanderlei (The Axe Murderer) Silva to earn a measure of revenge after two losses to the former Pride champion.

The unbeaten Evans started slowly against the bigger Griffin, but showed his finishing power with some vicious ground and pound in the third round. Jackson delivered a repeat of the counter-punching power that won him the title over Chuck Liddell at UFC 71 in May 2007.

Evans

Jackson punctuated his win with a few extras. He laid Silva out with a crunching left hook in the first round and, while Montreal referee Yves Lavigne attempted unsuccessfully to hold him back to protect the unconscious Brazilian, delivered two more blows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL Leafs in D.C.

AP PHOTO/NICK WASS

Capitals goalie Jose Theodore stops the puck as the Leafs' Nik Antropov looks on in Washington last night. Washington defeated Toronto 4-1.

Sports in brief

SOCCER Liverpool moved three points clear at the top of the Premier League yesterday after the Reds demolished Newcastle 5-1 and title rival Chelsea was held 2-2 at Fulham. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Canada's Devon Kershaw got back on the podium yesterday. The Sudbury, Ont., native won bronze in the men's 15-kilometre classic race in a cross-country skiing World Cup event in Germany. Starting in fifth spot nearly 30 seconds behind the leader of the opening stage, the 26-year-old played cat-and-mouse with the leaders for most of the race until the final one-kilometre sprint to the fin-

Ward, Giants join exclusive club

New York Giants running back Derrick Ward topped 1,000 yards rushing for the season yesterday against Minnesota, giving New York only the fourth pair of 1,000-yard backs in league history. Brandon Jacobs, who was inactive on Sunday, rushed for 1,089 yards this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eagles, Vikes, Fish in; Cowboys, Pats out

Lions set record for futility, Big Ben hurt on NFL's final weekend

NFL ROUNDUP

Eagles 44 **Cowboys** 6

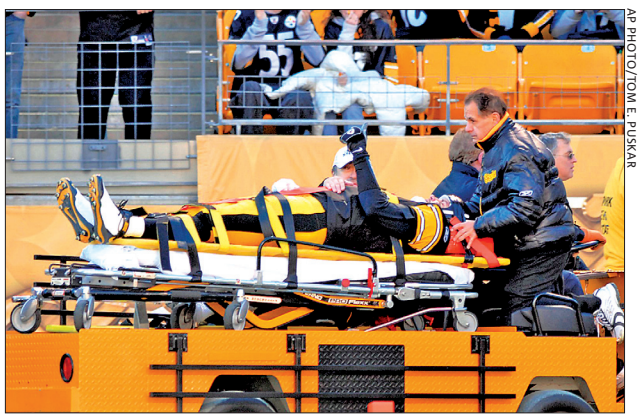
Donovan McNabb flexed his muscles, seemingly mocking Terrell Owens. The always stoic Andy Reid played cheerleader, encouraging the crowd to make noise.

The Philadelphia Eagles overcame improbable odds to capture an NFC wild-card spot with a dominating 44-6 victory over the Cowboys yesterday, knocking Dallas out of the playoffs. The Eagles will play at NFC North champion Minnesota next weekend.

DOLPHINS 24, N.Y. JETS 17

Chad Pennington, cut in the offseason by the Jets to make room for Brett Favre, threw two touchdown passes in leading the Dolphins to a division title with a 24-17 victory yesterday.

A year after going 1-15, the Dolphins completed a remarkable turnaround under first-year coach Tony Sparano, joining the 1999 Indianapolis Colts as the only teams in NFL history to make 10-game improvements. The win gave Miami the AFC East, knocking the New England Patriots out of the playoffs.



AP PHOTO/TOM E. PUSKAR

Ben Roethlisberger gives a thumbs-up sign to the crowd while being carted off the field yesterday.

VIKINGS 20, N.Y. GIANTS 19

The Minnesota Vikings rallied past the resting New York Giants for a 20-19 victory yesterday afternoon to qualify for the postseason for the first time in four years.

Ryan Longwell's 50-yard field goal as time expired gave Minnesota its first division title since 2000, rendering Chicago's game at Houston moot. The Bears lost to the Texans 31-24 anyway, but this was the way the Vikings (10-6) were determined to go in. They didn't want to back into their first NFC North crown since the league realigned six years ago.

RAIDERS 31, BUCS 24

Warrick Dunn stared straight ahead, searching for words to explain how the Tampa Bay Buccaneers let a promising season slip away with a December swoon that left them out of the playoffs.

"There's disbelief. There's shock. There's emotions, I'm sure, that I can't really describe," the veteran running back said after the team's fourth consecutive loss, 31-24 to the Oakland Raiders, completed the biggest collapse in franchise history.

RAVENS 27, JAGUARS 7

Instead of backing into the playoffs, the Baltimore Ravens made it on their own — in decisive fashion.

Le'Ron McClain ran for two touchdowns in the pivotal first half, and the Ravens routed the Jacksonville Jaguars 27-7 yesterday to earn an AFC wild-card berth.

Baltimore (11-5) could have qualified for the postseason if Buffalo beat New England earlier yesterday, but the Patriots' 13-0 victory meant the Ravens took the field knowing they had to win to get into the playoffs.

STEELERS 31, BROWNS 0

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger sustained a concussion while being driven into the ground by two Cleveland Browns defenders late in the second quarter of an essentially meaningless game, but is expected to be ready for the playoffs.

Roethlisberger moved his arms and legs and was talking before being placed onto a stretcher and then onto a cart that took him off the field. His helmet was taken apart while he was on the field, a precautionary move so his neck could be stabilized, but hospital tests revealed no additional injuries.

For a recap of last night's Broncos/Chargers NFL game, visit us online at metronews.ca/sports

PACKERS 31, LIONS 24

The Detroit Lions lost to the Green Bay Packers 31-21 yesterday, making them the first NFL team to go winless through a 16-game season.

"I've got to live with this," centre Dominic Raiola said. "I've been here eight years. This is on my resume."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

WJC

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

CANADA 15 Kazakhstan 0
Russia 5 Finland 2
Sweden 3 Slovakia 1
U.S. vs. Czech Republic

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 4 **TORONTO** 1
Anaheim 4 St. Louis 3
Boston 2 Atlanta 1
Chicago 4 Minnesota 1
Nashville at Edmonton
Ottawa at Vancouver

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Arizona 34 Seattle 21
Atlanta 31 St. Louis 27
Baltimore 27 Jacksonville 7
Carolina 33 New Orleans 31
Cincinnati 16 Kansas City 6
Green Bay 31 Detroit 21
Houston 31 Chicago 24
Indianapolis 23 Tennessee 0
Miami 24 N.Y. Jets 17
Minnesota 20 N.Y. Giants 19
New England 13 Buffalo 0
Oakland 31 Tampa Bay 24
Philadelphia 44 Dallas 6
Pittsburgh 31 Cleveland 0
San Francisco 27 Washington 24
Denver at San Diego

End regular season

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Denver 117 New York 110
Dallas 98 L.A. Clippers 76
Cleveland 93 Miami 86
New Orleans 105 Indiana 103
Boston at Sacramento
Golden State at L.A. Lakers

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Denver at Atlanta, 7
Chicago at New Jersey, 7:30
Orlando at Detroit, 7:30
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8
Memphis at Minnesota, 8
Washington at Houston, 8:30
Philadelphia at Utah, 9
TORONTO at Golden State,10:30

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BOXING WEEK EVENT

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905-305-9496

Down Under Mississauga
5170 Dixie Road
Between Eglinton & 401
905-624-5854

*Ad must be presented or mentioned to receive offer. Sale ends Dec. 31/08. SORRY NO EXCHANGES DURING BOXING WEEK!

Spider webs can help find drafts

Cold pours into a house from a poorly insulated or drafty basement or crawlspace. If you have either, says SaskEnergy, check for leaks by looking for spider webs. If there is a web, there is a draft. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

Awards show in April

The City of Toronto, in partnership with Green Living, will hold the fifth annual Green Toronto Awards ceremony and reception on April 23. The ceremony will kick off the Green Living Show, which opens to the public on the following day. The awards show will run from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Direct Energy Centre.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

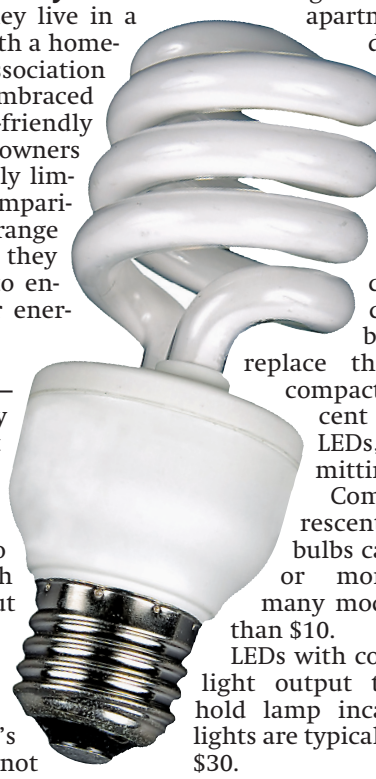
EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Green living in condos

Condo owners, apartment dwellers can make eco-friendly choices

Environmentally conscious condo and apartment dwellers can't be blamed for feeling a bit, well, green over those living in detached homes, free to make just about any Earth-friendly renovations they like.

Unless they live in a building with a homeowners association that has embraced the Earth-friendly way, condo owners are decidedly limited by comparison in the range of upgrades they can make to enhance their energy savings.



And renters — often they are just lucky if they can get permission to paint, much less rip out flooring, countertops and cabinets.

But that's no reason not to take advantage of the trove of products that are now on the market to whittle down that carbon footprint, eradicate airborne toxins and beef up the use of recyclables, experts say.

First the basic stuff:

Russell Albanese, president of the Albanese Organization, which has built several green residential highrises in New York City, says among the first things condo and apartment residents should do to cut their energy costs is toss out their incandescent light bulbs and replace them with compact fluorescent bulbs or LEDs, light-emmitting diodes.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs can cost $4 or more, with many models more than $10.

LEDs with comparable light output to household lamp incandescent lights are typically around $30.

The next move for condo owners (and for apartment renters, if they can) is use only Energy Star-rated appliances.

Another energy-saver, using programmable thermostats. They can be used to manage when the air conditioning or heat turns on, so they're on for less time during the day when the unit is empty.

"It can save you a lot of energy if you're away from home a lot," says Jay Hall, a technical consultant for the U.S. Green Building Council, an industry trade group.

Indoor air quality can be a significant problem in residential buildings, particularly for renters whose apartments have carpeting.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified filters for air conditioners can help snatch up small particles of dust and other allergens not captured by conventional filters.

A medical grade Hepa air filtration unit can absorb chemicals and odours and wipe out nearly all airborne particles. Prices of Hepa-rated air purifiers vary, with models typically around $100 and more.

Another way to make the air inside an apartment or condo cleaner is to repaint the walls with low volatile organic compounds, or low-VOC paints.

Many are increasingly available and often don't cost a lot more than regular paint. Low or no-VOC interior wall paints can run about $36 US for 4.5 litres, while comparable regular paints are around $20 US.

To help save water, condo owners can try dual-flush toilets, which give users two options on how much water to use per flush.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro life panel

Top environmental products/ideas of 2008

1. Reusable shopping bags
2. Buying locally grown food
3. Taking transit
4. Compact fluorescent light bulbs
5. Reusable water bottles
6. Recycling bins
7. Riding bicycles
8. Reusable coffee mugs
9. Programmable thermostats
10. Low-flow showerheads

AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

Taking stock of home energy use

SAVINGS Making your home more energy efficient could save you hundreds of dollars a year on heating costs.

Here are a few easy tips:

Check your furnace. Make sure your furnace is in good shape. Space heating makes up more than half the energy cost of an average Ontario home. Book a cleaning and maintenance check. And remember to clean your furnace filter every four to six weeks.

Clear the way. Make sure warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators are clean and aren't blocked by furniture or drapes.

Seal those leaks. Look for places in your home where cold air can seep in and heat can escape, such as external wall electrical outlets and gaps around windows and doors. Use foam insulation, door and window weatherstripping and caulking. Comprehensive weatherproofing can reduce your heating bill by 20 per cent.

Control the temperature. Install a programmable digital thermostat. Using a programmable thermostat can save you approximately $300 over the first five years. NEWS CANADA

News in brief

HOME AUDIT A good professional home energy audit can tell you how much all those leaks and cracks and aging insulation are costing you — and since typically more than 50 per cent of your home energy costs are for heating and cooling, that can be key information. Ontario is running a retrofit rebate program that can help you fix those leaks — and save you up to $10,000, when combined with a matching federal program. So far, post-retrofit audits show the average house has cut its annual carbon dioxide emissions by 2.9 tonnes and its annual energy use by 23 per cent. To learn more, visit www.ontario.ca/homeenergy — or call the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure info line at 1-888-668-4636. NEWS CANADA

New year's resolutions to help reduce waste

"This year, I'll exercise more and quit smoking." We've all made many new year's resolutions we end up breaking around noon on New Year's Day. Ambitious resolutions may have the best intentions, but small changes are more likely to stick.

That's why some of Canada's leading home-care brands like Bounty, Cascade, Charmin, Downy, Duracell and Tide created Future Friendly, a program to help Canadians reduce waste, packaging and energy consumption. They've teamed with Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, canühome and the Recycling Council of Ontario to provide some new year's resolutions that won't require an iron will.

More information

- More information can be found online at:
- www.futurefriendlybrands.ca
- www.rco.on.ca
- www.energyefficiency.ca
- www.canuhome.com

Down with drafts

Snow doesn't mean it's too late to weather-strip the homestead. The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance says caulking cracks, insulating windows and other steps to ensure your home is as airtight as possible will keep you warm this winter.

Appliances can be lean, green machines

Use your appliances efficiently. Reducing energy consumption in the laundry room can be as simple as cold-water washing.

In the kitchen, ensure the dishwasher is full before running it. Many dishwashers also have an energy-saving cycle you can take advantage of.

Slim down your waste

It's easier than toning the tummy. The Recycling Council of Ontario suggests bringing your own reusable shopping bag to the store. And when packing a snack, avoid packaging and plastic wrap becoming leftovers in the landfill with reusable containers.

Choosing products with reduced packaging can also shed pounds from your waste. Concentrated laundry products often use less material in the packaging.

Finally, holiday entertaining often means wining and dining. Leftover wine can be frozen into ice cubes and saved for your next culinary masterpiece.

Should you spill some merlot, Bounty Select-a-Size is great for cleanups of all sizes — perforated sheets allow you to use only what you need, so even if you sacrificed a glass of vintage red, you don't have waste while wiping it up.

NEWS CANADA

Memorial University seeks new tunes
In honour of its 100th convocation, Memorial University is asking alumni and present or former Newfoundland and Labrador residents to submit a proposal for a new piece of ceremonial music. The commission for the selected piece includes a $7,000 award. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Genetics and school
According to a new U.S. study, young men who carry a common form of a gene linked to poor impulse control are less likely to attend college. However, the study found that a strong social environment can counteract that genetic risk.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Get paid for covert shopping

Mystery purchaser Luc goes undercover to get the real deal on service

OddJobs

Even when mystery shopper Luc is not working, he notices everything about a store he visits. "You can't turn it off," he says.

Returning that singing Santa ornament this week? Taking public transit to Boxing Week sales? Filling up your car to make it out to yet another social gathering?

Let's hope the staff did the return with a smile, called out all the stops and asked you if you'd like a car wash with your fill-up. You might not have noticed, but Ottawa mystery shopper Luc sure would have.

He's hired by the head offices of retailers and restaurants to shop undercover — that's why he'd like his last name kept secret — to make sure staff do what they're trained to do.

Some days, he puts on an expensive-looking suit and eats out in nice restaurants, shops for diamond rings or stays overnight in a high-end hotel.

He once pretended to shop for a motorcycle. ("And I'm not a Harley-type guy," he said.) He often gets to keep his purchases, although he sometimes gets to spend just $10.

On the average day, he fills his car up with gas, leaves fake messages for doctors on their answering services, eats at fast-food restaurants and checks out in-store washrooms for cleanliness.

Once, he had to go through a museum and, following a checklist, ask specific questions of staff at every single exhibit. Most of the time, he either remembers what was said and done and writes it down later, or he uses his BlackBerry to covertly take notes on the spot. This time, however, he had to duck in the washroom after almost every exhibit to take notes; there was so much to take in.

Thanks to the job, Luc's become a great observer and remembers verbatim what people say. Even when he's not working, he notices salespeople's smiles and how long it takes to get greeted after walking into a store. "You can't turn it off," he says.

For the job, he often submits a quick checklist of what happened on his visit, but sometimes he needs to write up a lengthy report. He factors in the time involved in visiting the store and reporting the results when he decides if he'll take a job. Some quick gigs pay as little as $15, while going on a cruise and visiting hotels pays much better. He organizes his days so he can do numerous shops at once and hardly ever turns down a gas station visit — it usually means you get the gas for free.

Luc started mystery shopping about 18 months ago. He'd been working in retail for 20 years and wanted a change. He knew about mystery shoppers — they visited his stores all the time — and started taking small jobs doing it himself. He had plenty of contacts in the industry and is fully bilingual, so he was eventually able to make it a full-time job.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Mystery Shopper
Salary: $10 to $200 per job
Education: Experience in retail
Best part of the job: "It's different every day."
Worst part of the job: "The long reports."

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B.C. urged to protect PSE funding during economic downturn

The B.C. government must protect, and even expand, higher education in order to cope in times of economic uncertainty, observes BC Colleges president Jim Reed in a recent guest column in Victoria News. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

College & University 2009

With the economic downturn, is it time for you to go back to school and try out a Second Career?

Time to switch up careers?

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Some industries are in desperate need for workers despite the economic downturn. The Second Career program is there to guide laid-off workers to them.

With frequent layoffs in the manufacturing industry, the Ontario government launched a program that provides support for workers to train in a new in-demand career.

It offers up to $28,000 of financial assistance to cover tuition, travel, and living expenses, if eligible.

"People get very busy when they're working, so we haven't perhaps have had as many opportunities to keep our skills current," says Lorraine Trotter, the dean of Second Career at George Brown College.

"Now when we're facing major economic shifts … it reminds us we need to invest in our own skills."

Second Career programs at colleges are created with the government's consideration of labour market demand. From there, the colleges use their own data of graduation employment rates and surveys of students' interests to determine potential one- or two-year programs.

Possible high-demand careers are in health care, computer and information systems and education, says the Second Career website.

Other industries listed include natural and applied sciences; architecture and construction; business, finance and administration; food services and tourism and government services.

"The medical health sector (is in high-demand) because a lot of people are baby boomers and aging," says Jianna Hang, an employment counsellor with the Goodwill Employment Assessment Centre, a participating assessment centre in the Second Career program.

"They need more health services."

Another sector that will always need workers are social services, education or government services.

"No matter if the economy is good or not there will still be students," says Hang.

"Also for social services, based on the population, the new immigrants and the economy, a lot of people will be laid off and will also need social services."

"Now when we're facing major economic shifts … it reminds us we need to invest in our own skills."
Dean of Second Career at George Brown College, Lorraine Trotter

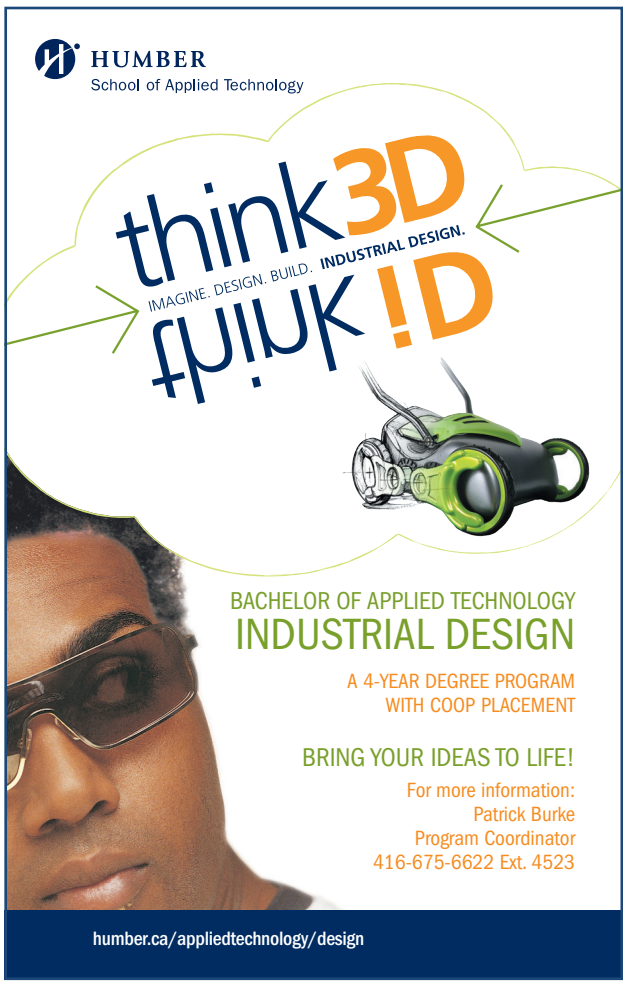
The counsellor says job prospects are still lingering in the engineering sector, but are worse than before.

"Because of an economic recession it's hard to say, especially in Ontario," says Hang. "A lot of engineering is required in the manufacturing field."

She says this also applies with the business sector. As for Second Career, Trotter says the program is gaining momentum at George Brown.

"Second Career really executes that quality of life-long learning," says Trotter. "Going back to college is not as scary of an experience as you might think."

For more information on Second Career opportunities see edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/secondcareer



Even in a recession, financial advisers still in high demand

Post Secondary

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

The economic downturn is the perfect time to employ the services of a financial adviser, according to Allan Small. The Toronto-based financial adviser and Metro columnist said services like his don't cost a lot and can earn you a lot of money.

"I believe everyone needs a financial adviser today because of the market volatility," he said. "It is difficult enough for us in the industry to try and figure out what's happening and where things are going, let alone somebody who goes to their nine-to-five job and at night goes on the Internet and tries to figure it out themselves."

"If you can't have empathy with a client's financial challenges … you're not going to make a very good financial adviser."
Greg Pollock

An adviser will look at your financial situation, compare it to where you want to be (say, retired in 15 years) and show you how to get there. Small said if you can invest for three or more years, the stock market is still the way to go.

The TSX has dropped 50 per cent from its peak: consider that a half-price sale. "If you walk into a Hugo Boss store and see a good-quality sweater on sale for 50 per cent off … you're going to buy it," Small said. "So if you see shares in (your bank) for half off, snap them up."

With all the layoffs lately, it's perhaps time to switch careers and become a financial adviser. Greg Pollock, president of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, said working as a financial adviser is 10 per cent technical skills and 90 per cent relationship skills.

"It's a people business. If you can't have empathy with a client's financial challenges … you're not going to make a very good financial adviser."

Buying a home, getting life insurance, educating children and helping aging parents are as much about human relationships as they are about financial transactions.

Some advisers specialize in mutual funds and will need extra qualifications from an institute like the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada, which operates nationwide except in Quebec, P.E.I. and Newfoundland and Labrador. If the adviser wants to sell stocks and bonds, she'll look at IIROC (the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada). Insurance experts will need to be licensed through the province in which they work.

Community Colleges often offer the courses one needs to become a financial advisor.

"It's about putting the client's interest ahead of all other interests," Pollock said.

An adviser will look at your financial situation, compare it to where you want to be and show you how to get there.

Sopranos actor found dead
It was confirmed on Christmas Day that actor John Costelloe — who starred as the gay firefighter-lover of a closeted mobster on the hit HBO show The Sopranos — was found dead of an apparent suicide inside his Brooklyn home on Dec. 18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment

Skipping China
Just because Batman landed in Hong Kong doesn't mean The Dark Knight will. Warner Bros. said it has decided not to release the film in China. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Year of the Letdown

Canada's long history of pop culture mediocrity continued in 2008

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Canada, the country that brought you Nickelback and The Mike Bullard Show once again proved in 2008 why America remains our superior in pop culture.

Disappointment hardly encapsulates a grim year when dross thrived and the axe fell on the righteous and wicked alike. Puerile Yankee knock-offs such as Project Runway Canada and So You Think You Can Dance Canada drew huge audiences despite cringe-inducing banter from Tré Armstrong and Leah Miller — whose saccharine anima won't abandon my brain no matter how many times I envision a flaming school bus crashing into a room full of harp seal puppies.

That said, the dancing was as good as you'll find down south.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Trailer Park Boys, one of the bright lights on Canadian TV, wrapped up its final season this year.

Two sad endings to note: In its continuing march towards zero credibility, MuchMusic cancelled The New Music — a program that launched such names as John Roberts and Avi Lewis. Showcase also said so long to Sunnyvale as Trailer Park Boys wrapped up its final season (look for another TPB movie in October 2009).

Death, however, yields small mercies, like Canadian Idol taking a one-year "rest" — a pre-Christmas miracle! In April, the CBC announced that the Royal Canadian Air Farce will be taken behind the barn and shot at long last. For 27 years, the comedy show traded on dreadful jokes delivered in the guise of stoic, humourless Canadian public figures.

Yet the show, which one blogger on CBC.ca said, "defines us Canadians as who we truly are," (Though I don't tout flying rubber chickens and yokels from Canmore as linchpins of my national identity whenever I go abroad, do you?) received Juno and Gemini Awards, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award and a star on Canada's Walk of Fame, some of the most esteemed prizes that can be bestowed on a Canadian artist.

It's endemic of a nation suffocating under its garrison mindset, a country so culturally insecure and protectionist that nationality regularly trumps merit. Anemic rubbish like Air Farce and Corner Gas (also in its final season) has not only been allowed to limp on for years, but is celebrated by a cultural bureaucracy of groupthinkers that embraces work not for its quality but for its essential "Canadian-ness" — a term too often limited to "hockey, beer and arts" as Jian Ghomeshi might put it. Hedley, Comedy Inc., The Hills Aftershow; all are consistently abysmal, all lauded with award nominations in their respective fields this year.

Small wonder why we're so frequently the butt of American jokes. In 2008, we earned it, eh?

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Marley & Me:** $37 million US
2. **Bedtime Stories:** $28.1 million
3. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** $27 million
4. **Valkyrie:** $21.5 million
5. **Yes Man:** $16.5 million
6. **Seven Pounds:** $13.4 million
7. **The Tale of Despereaux:** $9.4 million
8. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $7.9 million
9. **The Spirit:** $6.5 million
10. **Doubt:** $5.7 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watchmen release put in jeopardy

MOVIES A U.S. federal judge has ruled that 20th Century Fox owns a copyright interest in Watchmen, potentially jeopardizing the movie's March release. Judge Gary Feess disclosed the decision in a written order last week. Watchmen, based on a graphic novel, was shot by Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures. Fox sued to prevent its release and Feess had set a Jan. 20 trial, but reversed course in writing that Fox at least owns the right to distribute the film. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar nomination ballots are in the mail

The holidays may be winding down, but for Oscar fans, the season of celebration has just begun.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences mailed 5,810 official Oscar nominations ballots to voting members Friday, and perhaps no one was more excited — or more daunted — to cast votes than its 105 newest members.

"It's like 'Wayne's World.' I'm not worthy," said Doug Cooper, 35, who just joined the short films and feature animation branch. "Basically, it's fear. You have to make a decision."

New academy inductees were recently toasted at a private reception in Beverly Hills, where they mingled with fellow members and reflected on what it means to belong to Hollywood's most exclusive club.

Producer Armyan Bernstein said he's been preparing to cast Oscar votes since he was a child.

"My mom would get dressed up on Oscar night and make a special dinner," he said. "The next day, we didn't have to go to school. It was like a Jewish holiday."

Academy president Sid Ganis welcomed the group and reminded them of their power as Oscar voters.

"Conscientiously wield that power," he said. "Fill out ballots as thoughtfully as you can. This is your area of expertise."

Each of the academy's 15 branches is responsible for nominating those in their field — so actors nominate actors — based on the eligible films released that year. Oscar's final winners are determined by the entire voting membership, regardless of what branch they claim.

Academy members typically spend hours and hours watching the nominated films on DVD or in theatres before casting their final votes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members only

- Membership in the academy is by invitation based on professional accomplishment.
- Nominations will be announced Jan. 22 and Oscars will be presented Feb. 22.

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Disney bids Narnia farewell

Walt Disney Studios announced it will not co-produce and co-finance the adaptation of C.S. Lewis' The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, the third Narnia film, leaving Walden Media, the other big force behind the films, to find another partner. TVGUIDE.COM

Fisher recounts her Wishful Drinking

Director Mike Nichols once said of Carrie Fisher: "She has too much personality for one person and not enough for two persons."

That pretty much describes Fisher, daughter of Hollywood stars Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher. She starred in three Star Wars movies, has written several bestselling novels — and has been in and out of hospitals for substance abuse and other problems.

She calls her new memoir Wishful Drinking, also the title of her autobiographical road show that has occupied her for the past year or so.

As if the title doesn't say enough about her struggles, the cover shows a woman in Princess Leia braids with her face in her arms and her right hand holding a cocktail glass.

"We put the book together quickly, because the publisher (Simon & Schuster) was eager to get it out before Christmas," Fisher , 52, explains. "The book is half the show. I was doing the book and the show at the same time."

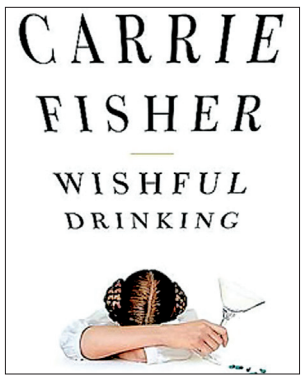
Fisher became a star when George Lucas chose her to play Princess Leia in 1977's Star Wars. She was thrilled to be the only prominent actress in the cast, "but my hair was terrible." It was parted on the top of her head, braided and rolled over her ears like large doughnuts."I was totally co-operative because I was afraid they would fire me," she recalled. "Whenever George asked me to do something, it was, 'Whatever you say, master.'"

Star Wars was followed by The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, but by the time Fisher reached 27, the movies had stopped coming and she turned to writing.

Her novels include Surrender the Pink and Postcards From the Edge, about her relationship with her mother. She wrote the screenplay for the 1990 Postcards film, which was directed by Nichols.

Despite her success, Fisher took to alcohol and drugs. For 20 years she was in and out of hospitals to treat her addiction, bipolar disorder and other problems. "Yes, I've been to a lot of places," she said. "They're not bad. You can find a group who can be very funny. You have to be; it's the end of the line. You can't get lower than that, unless you're on life support." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STUART RAMSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

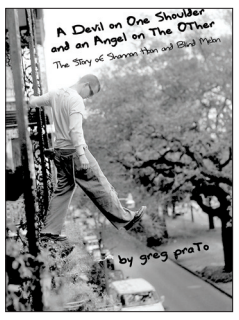


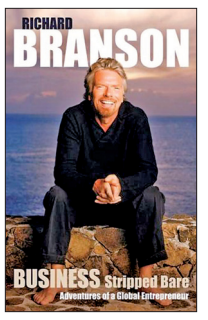
Actress and author Carrie Fisher's new memoir is Wishful Drinking, also the title of her autobiographical road show.

On the web

- *carriefisher.com*

Anthology puts a face to India's HIV/AIDS epidemic





BookPicks

AIDS Sutra: **Untold Stories from India**

Author: Various
Publisher: Anchor Books
Price: $15.95 (Paperback)

When millions of a nation's people share the common bond of disease, why does that disease continue to be a taboo subject? In AIDS Sutra, 16 Indian authors — including Salman Rushdie and Kiran Desai — put a face to some of the three million people in India living with HIV. The writers travelled around the country to interview sex workers, lifestyle advocates and authorities in an attempt to understand the stigma and other struggles associated with HIV/AIDS. The book was created in partnership with Avahan, the India AIDS Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

A Devil on One Shoulder **and an Angel on the Other**

Author: Greg Prato
Publisher: Greg Prato
Price: $19.99 (Paperback)

On Oct. 21, 1995, the lead singer of American alt-rock band Blind Melon died of a cocaine overdose. At only 28, Shannon Hoon's passing came just after the band's second record was released, following its debut which had reached four times platinum. In this intimate account of Hoon's life, New York music journalist Greg Prato relays Hoon's life through those who were close to him. Prato picks the brains of his band members and loved ones, detailing Hoon's demise and his relationships with other rock success stories like Soundgarden, Neil Young and The Rolling Stones.

Business Stripped Bare: **Adventures of a Global Entrepreneur**

Author: Richard Branson
Publisher: Virgin Books
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

Richard Branson, the driving force behind Virgin Mobile, Virgin Festival, Virgin Unite and Virgin Galactic, among other enterprises, reveals in his new memoir how he came to transform a plethora of business opportunities into billion-dollar companies. Branson explains how he so precisely crafted the Virgin brand and its numerous offshoots, focusing as much on his failures as his successes along the way. He also draws on the entrepreneurs he admires to illustrate where his inspiration comes from, and emphasizes his commitment to the environment.

BRIAN COULTON/
FOR METRO CANADA

Publisher cancels disputed Holocaust memoir

LITERARY SCANDAL The publisher of a disputed Holocaust memoir has cancelled the book, adding the name Herman Rosenblat to an increasingly long line of literary fakers and bringing down with a crash his story — embraced by Oprah Winfrey among others — of meeting his future wife at a Nazi concentration camp.

Rosenblat's Angel at the Fence had been scheduled to come out in February but Berkley Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.), withdrew the memoir following allegations by scholars, friends and family members that the tale was untrue. Berkley Books says it will demand Rosenblat and his agent return all the money which they've received for the book.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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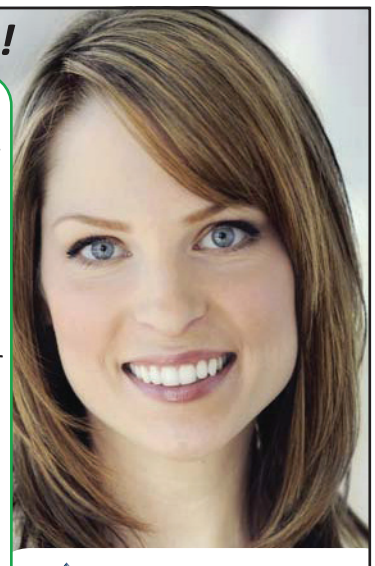

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Network lawsuit
CBS' success with Two and a Half Men has come at a price. Warner Bros. has filed a $49 million US lawsuit against the network, claiming CBS has refused to reimburse the studio in production fees and costs since the sitcom became a hit. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Heaven and hell on wheels

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FAST AND DANGEROUS: My Christmas gift to myself this year was pneumonia, which laid me up for almost a week before Christmas, as the holidays surged around the watery, antibiotics-induced bubble that settled in around me.

Much as I wanted to, I couldn't sleep all day, so I ended up with a mug of tea and wrapped in a blanket in my office, picking my way through the stacks of promo DVDs I get sent practically every day — unlabelled screeners in plain white sleeves, tucked into a press kit or a few photocopied sheets of a press release.

If I were a really conscientious TV columnist — and had an Einsteinian dispensation that let me pack limitless, sleep-free hours into every day — I'd watch every one of them, but for the most part they either end up going straight into the garbage, or reside in a purgatorial pile on either side of my desk, set aside with vague intentions of making time, having aroused a shadow of interest after a cursory glance at the title and the PR bumph.

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Jeremy Clarkson is unapologetic about the palpable joy of driving a really great car really, really fast. Top Gear is probably the most male TV series ever made.

There were discs going back almost three years near the bottom of the pile, a few of them probably deserving a couple of hundred words, but let's not start the new year off with regrets. One thing that did perk me up was a BBC advance screener for the TV special Jeremy Clarkson's Heaven And Hell, which came out in 2007, and featured the host of the long-running auto freak show celebrating cars like the Ferrari Enzo and the Aston-Martin V8 Vantage, and bemoaning the very existence of automotive horrorshows like the Citroen 2CV and the Triumph TR7.

I'm not a car guy — I don't even have a license — but Clarkson's TV series Top Gear is the greatest car show ever made, which makes Clarkson the greatest car show host in history. Arrogant yet affable, he's unapologetic about the palpable joy of driving a really great car really, really fast, and the show is probably the most male TV series ever made. Just tune in to BBC Canada if you're doubtful, or catch the numerous clips on YouTube, if you're cheap.

Which made me wonder about the fate of the U.S. version, which was announced with great fanfare by NBC early this year, with Adam Carolla in Clarkson's shoes. A quick Google revealed that the network gave the show a pass after viewing the pilot, making the excuse that the failure of Knight Rider had given them cold feet about car shows.

The good news is that they've let the BBC take the show elsewhere — hopefully to a cable network that isn't beholden to car ads, though to be frank, they should just subtitle Clarkson for the benefit of the accent-challenged and let the British show become the natural hit it should be here.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In brief

REALITY SERIES In Arizona, seeing Joe Arpaio on TV is nothing new. But the self-described "America's toughest sheriff" now has a national platform to pursue lawbreakers with a starring role in Smile ... You're Under Arrest!, a new reality show debuting Saturday on Fox Reality Channel. A cross between Punk'd and Cops, the program sets up elaborate sting operations to snare people wanted on outstanding warrants. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Dudek gives birth to a son

Mad Men's Anne Dudek and her painter-husband, Matthew Heller, are celebrating the birth of their new son. The couple's first child, Akiva, arrived on Dec. 14. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Beckham ends big money Pepsi deal

CAREER David Beckham announced he has walked away from his big money deal with Pepsi —which reportedly earned the star $3.5 million US a year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Beckham appeared alongside Britney Spears, Beyoncé Knowles and Pink — as well as a host of international soccer stars — in the company's TV, magazine and billboard promotions.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Swift opens up about love life

DATING Taylor Swift has opened up about her past relationships, but when it comes to romance, the 19-year-old singer says she was a late bloomer, people.com reports.

"I was 15 and the oldest out of all my friends to have not kissed a guy," Swift tells Your Prom magazine for its spring issue.

The magazine says she is now making up for lost time by writing openly about love. "I like to write about boys and relationships," the Love Story singer said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Bündchen, Brady are not engaged

RUMOUR Don't believe the holiday engagement rumours swirling around supermodel Gisele Bündchen and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, people.com is reporting.

Brady's father, Tom Brady Sr., told The Boston Globe on Friday that reports of his son's engagement were "rumour, rumour, rumour ... We don't know a thing about it. Nobody told me. We talked to him and there's nothing to say."

The Boston Herald had reported that the couple strolled down Bean Town's Beacon Street on Friday — and that Bündchen, 28, was without an engagement ring.

Bündchen's twin sister, Patricia, also denied the report, saying in an e-mail that the engagement story — which first surfaced on TMZ — is "not true."

Bündchen's rep declined to comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan enraged at dad's indiscretion

CONTROVERSY Lindsay Lohan took to her MySpace blog last week to share her shock at finding out her father, Michael, had allegedly fathered a lovechild during his marriage to her mother, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

The website says Lohan wrote that, "I have gone through a lot in my past, and to be completely honest, I am still going through a lot right now.

"My father just let my family and I know that he had another child after my little sister Aliana, or maybe he had it before Aliana?? Either way, he cheated on my mother and that really sucks."

But Lohan's dad is reportedly convinced the post was actually written by his daughter's girlfriend, Samantha Ronson, and he is blaming the DJ for the actress' stalled Hollywood career.

The website said the star's enraged father has even warned Ronson he will spark a media war if another inflammatory post is made about him on his daughter's webpage.

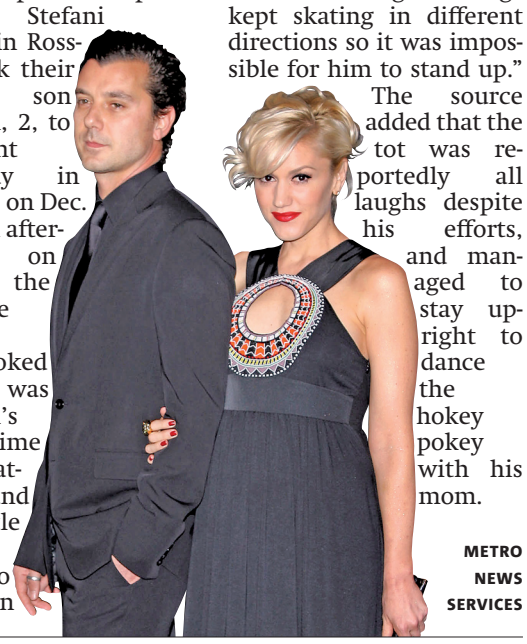
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rock star couple teach tot to roll

FAMILY How does the son of a couple of rock stars spend the Christmas holiday? Learning to roller skate, people.com reports.

Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale took their eldest son Kingston, 2, to Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale on Dec. 23 for an afternoon on wheels, the magazine says.

"It looked like it was Kingston's first time roller-skating, and the little guy looked so cute," an eyewitness said. "Kingston tried to skate between Gwen and Gavin, but even though they were holding his hands, Kingston's legs kept skating in different directions so it was impossible for him to stand up."



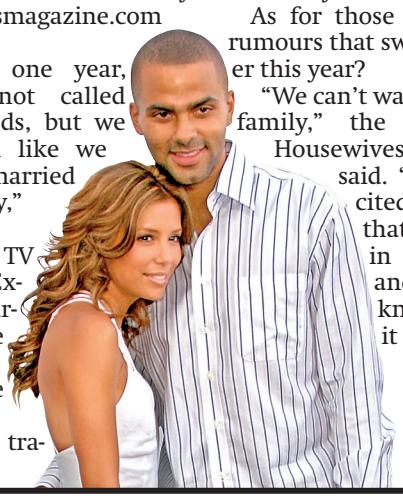
The source added that the tot was reportedly all laughs despite his efforts, and managed to stay upright to dance the hokey pokey with his mom.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Longoria, Parker still feel like newlyweds

RELATIONSHIP Eva Longoria and NBA-star hubby Tony Parker still feel like newlyweds, usmagazine.com reports.

"After one year, you're not called newlyweds, but we still feel like we got married yesterday," Longoria told the TV show Extra. "Married life agrees with me because I'm very traditional and I'm very domestic, and Tony is the same way."



As for those pregnancy rumours that swirled earlier this year?

"We can't wait to start a family," the Desperate Housewives star, 33, said. "I'm so excited about that chapter in our lives, and you'll know when it happens."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse fears an early death

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse fears an early death, according to a report on femalefirst.co.uk.

The website says a former aide to the 25-year-old singer has lifted the lid on her fears — insisting the singer is obsessed with her own mortality. Alex Haines, Winehouse's former personal assistant, also estimates the star spent up to $5,000 US a week feeding her drug habit, the website reports.

He tells Britain's News of the World, "It was my job to look after her. But it was impossible."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wentzs show off son on the web

PEOPLE Proud parents Ashlee Simpson-Wentz and Pete Wentz took the holidays as a reason to show off their newborn son, Bronx Mowgli, on the web, people.com reports.

The couple posted a holiday greeting addressed to "all our friends" on Wentz's site, friendsorenemies.com, that reads, "We decided to share the best gift we could ever receive with you: Bronx Mowgli Wentz."

Bronx was born Nov. 20 in Los Angeles.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today 40% Rain and snow 2° / -4°
Tuesday Variable 0° / -12°
Wednesday 90% 1-3cm of snow -7° / -15°
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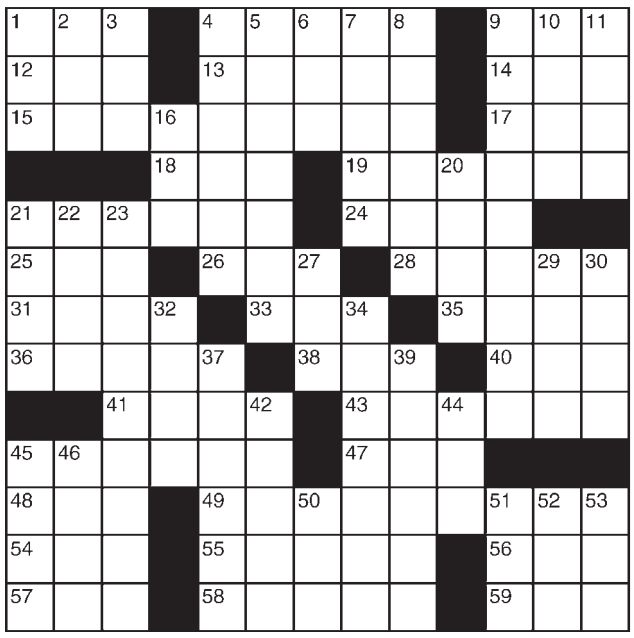

Crossword across

1 Run for exercise
4 San Diego ballplayer
9 Omega preceder
12 Lawyers' org.
13 WW II sub
14 Downs' opposites
15 Dairy-and-booze mix
17 — de plume
18 Suitable
19 Makes into law
21 Billfold
24 Affluent
25 Blackbird
26 Spigot
28 Violin's kin
31 Bloke
33 Untruth
35 Naturalist Fossey
36 Use a broom
38 Insulating material, for short
40 Zero
41 Unexciting
43 Cantankerous
45 Leatherneck
47 Illuminated
48 "The Greatest"
49 Emphasize, as a point
54 Gun the engine
55 Whom Bugs bugs
56 Uncooked
57 Witness
58 Peruses
59 Bunyan's tool

Crossword down

1 Predicament
2 Kimono closer
3 Lady friend
4 Marionette
5 Touchy situation?
6 "SNL" announcer Pardo
7 Speed demon?
8 Tribal, perhaps
9 End of a joke
10 Locate
11 Doctrines
16 Penn who played Kumar
20 Served perfectly
21 Comical folks
22 From the beginning
23 Hit of a sort
27 Spot on a card
29 Den
30 Sans siblings
32 Actress Garr
34 Developed
37 Cater to others' wants
39 Colonial newscasters
42 TV's "Uncle Miltie"
44 To the — degree
45 Fourth planet
46 Out of the storm
50 "— Little Teapot"
51 Man-mouse link
52 "The Producers" role
53 Ram's mate

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		6	4	3		9	
9								6
		2				5		
3	9		8		2		7	4
				6				
8	4		5		7		3	1
		9				3		
1								5
	5		9	7	1		2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S	■	C	O	I	L	■	A	R	I	D		
Y	A	M	■	O	N	T	O	■	N	O	L	O		
E	G	O	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		
R	I	G	I	D	■	■	■	S	K	I	■	■		
■	■	■	N	O	V	A	■	E	L	B	O	W		
C	O	R	N	B	E	L	T	■	S	A	V	E		
A	K	A	■	A	R	B	O	R	■	B	A	S		
B	R	I	O	■	T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T		
S	A	L	S	A	■	M	E	T	E	■	■	■		
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	■	A	N	O	D	E		
H	E	A	R	T	F	E	L	T	■	B	A	R		
R	A	G	E	■	F	L	E	A	■	I	T	S		
S	T	A	Y	■	S	K	I	T	■	T	A	T		

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Red-hot Turkey with Cashews

INGREDIENTS:
1 1/2 cups (375 mL) long-grain rice
4 tbsp (60 mL) plus 2 tsp (10 mL) peanut oil
Salt
8–10 tiny dried red chilies
1 clove garlic
2 tbsp (25 mL) cornstarch
1 large egg white
1 lb (500 g) boned turkey breast
2 tbsp (25 mL) runny honey
6 tbsp (90 mL) soy sauce
2 tbsp (25 mL) dry sherry
1 can (7oz/200 mL) water chestnuts
8 scallions
2/3 cup (150 mL) fresh bean sprouts
1/4 cup (50 mL) roasted, salted cashew nuts
2 tsp (10 mL) rice vinegar, or white wine vinegar

METHOD:
1. Put a kettle of water on to boil. Put rice into saucepan and add 1 tsp (5 mL) oil, some salt and 3 cups (750 mL) boiling water from kettle. Cover, boil, then simmer for 10–15 minutes.
2. Put chilies in pan of water, add 1 tsp (5 mL) oil, boil, and simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Peel garlic and crush into bowl, then stir in cornstarch and egg white. Cut turkey into cubes, add to egg-white mixture, coat well. Set aside.
4. Blend honey, soy sauce, and sherry with 4 tbsp (60 mL) water and set aside.
5. Drain, rinse and dice water chestnuts. Trim and rinse scallions, cut into chunks equal to chestnut pieces, and mix. Drain chilies. Rinse and drain bean sprouts.
6. Heat 3 tbsp (45 mL) oil in large frying pan over high heat, smoking. Add turkey and stir-fry until white. Add cashews and drained chillies, stir-fry 30 seconds, then stir in vinegar. Transfer turkey to bowl with slotted spoon.
7. Add remaining oil to pan, heat until smoking, then add water chestnuts and scallions, and stir-fry for 30 seconds.
8. Return turkey mixture to pan, with bean sprouts. Stir for 30 seconds, then pour in honey mixture and stir to heat through.
9. Drain rice, and serve turkey stir-fry on top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A man gives you a piece of his mind. Do your personal grooming in private. A new conquest suddenly plays coy.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A chatty person makes unusual demands. Fasten your seatbelt and get on with life. Do what you're told unless you're sure that it's wrong.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Take care on slippery surfaces. Your approach to dieting must be more disciplined. Remember your own mistakes before scolding others.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Someone will ease your troubles. Lose your fear about an intimate encounter. A surprising meeting will take place.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Heed a senior's old-fashioned intuition. Refuse to play emotional games. You thrive in spite of adversity.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone thinks of you despite feeling unsettled. An insecure man cries crocodile tears. A jealous person brings out the best in you.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A love affair is too hot to handle. You'll stop resisting the inevitable. A complainer finally demands respect.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A message from a forgetful buddy puts you on edge. A villain will be pardoned. A newcomer has ulterior motives.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A secret rivalry is discovered. Ensure that all your bills were paid on time. Give a simple answer to a complex question.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be considerate of a tactless person. You need help to make new start. Accusations of tyranny will be acknowledged.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Profound thoughts will dissipate hostility. An older man clears the table for serious work. A novel plan takes on sparkling appeal.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Whatever you can imagine will happen. A leader will take care of people's troubles. Positive reinforcement can change someone's attitude.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Make a policeman pull over to the side (1)
2. Frighten a filly's mom (1)
3. Blue Devils' salad slices, in brief (1)
4. Sink teeth into Lancelot, for one (1)
5. Sax man G.'s court footwear, slangily (2)
6. Compassionate Russian-Alaskan strait man (2)
7. More brusque and surly faker in poker (2)

ANSWERS
1. STOP COP 2. SCARE MARE 3. DUKES CUKES 4. BITE KNIGHT
5. KENNYS TENNIES 6. CARING BERING 7. GRUFFER BLUFFER

12-29-08

This day in history

DEC. 29, 1170 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, is assassinated inside Canterbury Cathedral by followers of King Henry II; he subsequently becomes a saint and martyr in the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church.
DEC. 29, 1778: American Revolutionary War: 3,500 British soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell captures Savannah, Georgia without firing a shot.
DEC. 29, 1997: Hong Kong begins to kill all the nation's chickens (1.25 million) to stop the spread of a potentially deadly influenza strain.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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ADIDAS AEROPOSTALE MARSHALL'S 2b bebe OLD NAVY
ZUMIEZ COLE HAAN SKECHERS OSH KOSH B'GOSH KATE SPADE
TIMBERLAND HUGO BOSS BASS TOMMY HILFIGER J.CREW
GUESS? JONES NEW YORK GAP OLD NAVY OAKLEY VAULT
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METRO 29/12/08

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Centerpoint Mall
Crossroads Plaza
Empress Walk
Lawrence Square
North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

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Hopedale Mall (kiosk)
Oakville Place
Winston Power Centre

ORANGEVILLE
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OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
570 Kingston Rd.
Pickering Town Centre

RICHMOND HILL
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Time Square Shopping Centre

SCARBOROUGH
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Bridlewood Mall (kiosk)
Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
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